



# Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Indiana State Board of Education  
**FROM:** Office of School Accountability, Indiana Department of Education  
**RE:** Accrediting Organization Recognition for Residential Treatment Facilities  
**DATE:** July 14, 2021

This memorandum provides a summary of recognition for third-party accrediting organizations for residential treatment facilities and a request to recognize another accrediting organization, as well as the Department's thoughts on the matter.

### **Background**

Residential Treatment Facilities (RTFs), per IC 31-9-2-115, provide a variety of services to youth with potentially severe intellectual, behavioral, or developmental disabilities in a 24-hour secure facility setting. Child and adolescent residents at these facilities receive different types of treatment for their disabilities, as well as individualized education services. Given the unique nature of the educational environment at RTFs, in 2019 the Department recommended that the Board consider the educational programs at RTFs as "recognized programs," if they maintain accreditation through any of three (3) federally approved third-party accrediting bodies for RTFs:

- The Council on Accreditation (COA)
- The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)
- The Joint Commission (TJC)

The Board subsequently approved the Department's recommendation and added these accrediting organizations for RTFs to the list of recognized third-party accrediting organizations, allowing RTFs with accreditation from these organizations to continue offering educational services to students as recognized programs.

### **EAGLE**

Educational Assessment Guidelines Leading toward Excellence (EAGLE) is a faith-based third-party accrediting organization for RTFs. Currently, EAGLE only has one (1) accredited RTF in the State of Indiana: Bashor Children's Home. During the 2020-2021 school year, Bashor contacted the Department requesting to add EAGLE to the Board's list of recognized third-party accrediting organizations for RTFs in order to allow Bashor to operate as a recognized program. After reviewing Bashor's request, Department staff requested additional information from Bashor regarding whether EAGLE was federally recognized as a third-party accrediting organization for RTFs. Bashor subsequently provided documentation to the Department indicating that EAGLE held federal recognition as an RTF accrediting organization. After reviewing the documentation, Department staff determined EAGLE's recognition to be equivalent to the recognition held by the third-party RTF accrediting organizations currently recognized by the Board.

### **Recommendation**

The Department recommends the Board add EAGLE to the list of recognized third-party accrediting organizations for residential treatment facilities.